(b) The operations of the Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Sulphuric Acid plants have been restarted. The normal production in the Phosphoric Acid plant would start by the end of March, 2000.

Import of Urea

1680. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still importing urea; and

(b) if so, the names of countries exporting urea to India and the quantity of imported urea, country-wise, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price, movement and distribution control. The imports of urea are canalized and are made on Government account through designated canalising agencies to bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability. However, the quantum of imports of urea have come down significantly since 1998-99.

(b) The country-wise imports of urea on Government account in the last three years were as under.

(Qty. in lakh MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Bangladesh	1.44	0.26	—
2.	CIS	6.84	9.80	1.92
3.	Kuwait	3.86	3.91	0.49
4.	Libya	2.14	0.80	—
5.	Qatar	2.95	3.02	1.03
6.	Romania	1.60	1.23	—
7.	Saudi Arabia	2.98	2.14	0.26
8.	UAE	1.47	2.10	0.36

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
9.	Indonesia	—	0.34	—
10.	Germany	—	0.29	—
11.	Iran	—	—	1.50
	TOTAL	23.28	23.89	5.56

Opening of Fertilizer Factory in N.E.

1681. SHRI M. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) wheather Government have any plan for opening a new fertilizer factory in the North Eastern Region during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether there is any plan to assist in construction of godowns to stock fertilizers in the transport bottlenecks, facing States in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July, 1991, no license is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entreprenours are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance. However, Public Sector Undertakings/Cooperative Societies under the adminstrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain approval of the Government before undertaking such capital expenditure beyond their delegated powers. At present, no proposal for setting up a new fertilizer factory in the North Eastern Region has been posed to the Government by the PSUs/Cooperative Societies for approval. However, Hindustran Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking, is revamping its Namrup Unit, in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs.350 crore to increase urea production by 3.28 lakh tonnes per annum.